

# **EPA Climate Change and Water News**

## **August 28, 2013**

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal agencies related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

### **U.S. EPA News**

- [EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative Announces Webinar Series](#)

### **Other U.S. Federal Agency News**

- [U.S. Geological Survey Moves to Create Climate Change Vulnerability Database](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Conducts North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study](#)
- [Federal Interagency Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force Releases Strategy](#)

### **Other News**

- [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions \(C2ES\) Releases Map Showing Status of State and Local Adaptation Efforts across United States](#)
- [Study Published in Nature Climate Change Journal on Future Flood Losses in Major Coastal Cities](#)
- [Connecticut Insurance Companies Now Required by State to Complete Climate Risk Survey](#)
- [American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting to be Held February 2-6, 2014 in Atlanta and to Focus on Extreme Weather-Climate and Built Environment](#)
- [Water, Climate, Food, and Energy Conference to be Held March 3-7, 2014 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Abstracts Due September 27, 2013](#)

### **U.S. EPA News**

#### **EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative Announces Webinar Series**

In collaboration with the Water Utility Climate Alliance, EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities initiative will host a webinar series beginning this fall. The webinars will explore planning and decision-making strategies to help drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These 45 to 60 minute webinars will assist the water sector in developing a better understanding of climate change, managing impacts, and creating adaptation strategies. Each webinar will include presentations from utility representatives that have used these planning methods to help make critical decisions. Throughout the series, information will also be provided on available tools and resources to facilitate the planning processes. The webinar topics include sustainability and adaptation, scenario planning, robust planning and threshold analysis. The series begins on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 and will continue through the spring of 2014. Participant space is limited, and early registration is suggested. Participants will receive an email confirmation when their registration is

approved. For more information and to register, view the "Training Calendar" tab at: [www.epa.gov/climatereadyutilities](http://www.epa.gov/climatereadyutilities).

## **Other Federal News**

### **U.S. Geological Survey Moves to Create Climate Change Vulnerability Database**

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is moving to create a registry of climate change vulnerability to better protect wildlife, ecosystems, and dams. The registry will collect and display information on climate change adaptation projects underway across the country and will pool from federal, state, local, and tribal governments. A notice to gather information for the registry was filed on August 15, 2013 in the Federal Register. The USGS will collect comments on the proposal for a 60-day period, after which it will go to the White House Office of Management and Budget. For more information, see: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-20361\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-20361_PI.pdf).

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Conducts North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study**

Following Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was directed by Congress to conduct a comprehensive study of the consequences of Hurricane Sandy and to develop a strategy to reduce risk and increase resiliency to populations affected and those areas vulnerable to tidally-influenced flooding and storm surge within the boundaries of the USACE North Atlantic Division. This project, the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, will look at tidal flood risks and sea level rise vulnerability of coastal communities from Maine to Virginia. The Study will include a coastal framework as well as storm suite modeling, coastal GIS analysis, and related evaluations, for the affected coastlines. The study will identify existing green infrastructure, include an evaluation of the performance of green infrastructure during Hurricane Sandy and other recent storms, and consider the performance of green infrastructure in reducing the impacts of coastal storm flooding, as well as other impacts at a larger scale and as a system. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/compstudy>.

### **Federal Interagency Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force Releases Strategy**

President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, chaired by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, and made up of almost two dozen federal agencies and programs, has released a rebuilding strategy to serve as a model for communities across the nation facing greater risks from extreme weather and to continue helping the Sandy-affected region rebuild. The strategy contains 69 policy recommendations, many of which have already been adopted, that will help homeowners stay in and repair their homes, strengthen small businesses and revitalize local economies, and ensure entire communities are better able to withstand and recover from future storms. To learn more visit: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/sandyrebuilding>.

## **Other News**

### **Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) Releases Map Showing Status of State and Local Adaptation Efforts across United States**

Research shows that climate change is already increasing global temperatures, leading to rising sea levels and more frequent and intense extreme weather events. These changes could affect coastlines, water supplies, human health, ecosystems, and more. Each community will be affected differently. Formal planning and concrete actions are needed to address these changes at both the state and local level. States and municipalities are recognizing the importance of pre-emptive action to address their vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. Many have begun to address adaptation concerns either within broader climate action plans or through separate efforts. For these reasons, C2ES has released a map to illustrate how cities and states are adapting, or becoming more resilient, to their individual vulnerabilities. The map highlights examples of municipal adaptation planning efforts and concrete adaptation actions. It also indicates the status of adaptation planning for each state and provides plan details where available.

The map is not a comprehensive compilation of every city plan or action, but rather highlights examples. For more information, visit: <http://www.c2es.org/us-states-regions/policy-maps/adaptation>.

### **Study Published in Nature Climate Change Journal on Future Flood Losses in Major Coastal Cities**

Flood exposure is increasing in coastal cities due to growing populations and assets, the changing climate, and subsidence. This study provides a quantification of present and future flood losses in the 136 largest coastal cities worldwide. Using a new database of urban protection and different assumptions on adaptation, the authors account for existing and future flood defenses. They predict that with climate change and subsidence, present protection will need to be upgraded to avoid unacceptable losses of US\$1 trillion or more per year. The analysis identifies the cities that seem most vulnerable to these trends, that is, where the largest increase in losses can be expected. To learn more, visit <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1979.html>

### **Connecticut Insurance Companies Now Required by State to Complete Climate Risk Survey**

Connecticut-based insurance companies have until August 30, 2013 to complete a Climate Risk Disclosure Survey under a new mandate issued by the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Insurance Commissioner announced on July 17th that the companies will now be required to complete the annual report, which was initially adopted in 2009 as a voluntary measure by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Connecticut joins four other states in making response to the survey mandatory for licensed companies that are writing annual premiums of more than \$100 million. The other states are California, Minnesota, New York, and Washington. For more information, visit: <http://www.ct.gov/cid/cwp/view.asp?Q=528402&A=1269>.

### **American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting to be Held February 2-6, 2014 in Atlanta and to Focus on Extreme Weather-Climate and Built Environment**

The 2014 American Meteorological Society (AMS) annual meeting will likely be the first AMS annual meeting after the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment and National Climate Assessment Reports are released. The meeting will take place in Atlanta, Georgia, a city that has experienced, within the last five years, drought, a tornado in the central business district, and a 200- to-500 year flood event. A major goal of the meeting is to push the envelope on new ideas, perspectives, and tools that can not only advance the field scientifically and technically, but also serve as a vital feedback circuit to the built environment with its increasingly interconnected energy, transportation, communications, water, food, safety, health, and economic infrastructure. For more information about the AMS annual meeting, February 2-6, 2014, visit: <http://annual.ametsoc.org/2014/>.

### **Water, Climate, Food, and Energy Conference to be Held March 3-7, 2014 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Abstracts Due September 27, 2013**

The Water Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will host the "Nexus 2014: Water, Food, Climate and Energy Conference" on March 3-7, 2014. The conference will bring together researchers and practitioners working in government, civil society, and business. Building on the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus Conference held in Bonn, Germany in 2011, this conference aims to address the connected, but distinct, relationships between water, food, climate, energy, security, sustainability, and development. Abstracts are now being accepted. Submission guidelines are posted on the conference website. The deadline to submit an abstract is September 27, 2013. For more information, visit: <http://nexusconference.web.unc.edu/>.